



9-6-05

IFW  
PATENT

Attorney's Docket No. 044646/262893

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:	J. Milton Harris	Confirmation No.:	4856
Appl No.:	10/684,893	Group Art Unit:	1616
Filed:	October 14, 2003	Examiner:	Webman, Edward J.
For:	DEGRADABLE POLY(ETHYLENE GLYCOL) HYDROGELS WITH CONTROLLED HALF-LIFE AND PRECURSORS THEREFOR		

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 3, 2005, in which the Examiner has required an election of species for several variables identified in Claims 10-12. Applicant hereby provisionally elects, with traverse, amide linkages for X in Claim 10, glycerol for R in Claim 11, and esters, particularly carboxylate esters, for W in Claim 12. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Applicant traverses on the ground that a combined search and examination of all species can be conducted without serious burden to the Examiner. As set forth in MPEP §803, under such circumstances, restriction is improper. If the election of species requirement is maintained, Applicant notes that consideration of additional species should take place upon the allowance of a generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Appl No.: 10/684,893

Amdt. dated 09/02/2005

Reply to Restriction Requirement of June 3, 2005



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher M. Humphrey".

Christopher M. Humphrey

Registration No. 43,683

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Date of Deposit September 2, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracey S. Wright".

Tracey S. Wright